

**GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
MEETING SUMMARY  
January 14, 2002**

**Prepared by:  
Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Conservation  
Ground Water Management Staff**

## **SUMMARY**

### **Call to Order**

Commission members in attendance:

Karen Gautreaux, Chairman

Phil Boudreaux, Assistant Commissioner of Conservation

Zahir "Bo" Bolourchi, Secretary, DOTD

George Cardwell, Capital Area Ground Water Commission

William "Bill" Cefalu, Police Jury Association

Peggy Gantt, Louisiana Municipal Association

Dale Givens, Secretary, DEQ

Fulbert Leon Namwamba, Geologist

Brad Spicer, Agriculture & Forestry

John Roussel, Assistant Secretary Wildlife & Fisheries

Linda Zaunbrecher, Farm Bureau Member

Dean Lowe, Department of Health and Hospitals

Len Bahr, Governor's Office of Coastal Affairs

### **Ground Water Management Staff Report**

Mr. Duplechin, Chief of Staff, read into the record the number of Water Well Information Sheet received since the last Commission meeting (53) and the number of just causes rendered (3) since the last Commission meeting. The staff has collected a total of 208 Water Well Information Sheets. A number of information sheets (8) were sent to the staff that did not have the proper 60-day notice or did the owner request a just cause variance.

The staff is continuing its investigation on how to best make this information available to the public. But without precise GIS data it is impractical to try map the well on the Department of Natural Resources web site. An alternative may be to just post the sheets themselves on the web site.

The staff has reviewed and sent to the Governor's office a press release from the outreach committee. The press release will also be posted on the web site.

The staff attended several meetings. One meeting was the Technical Committee of the Capitol Ground Water Conservation Commission. Of interest to the Commission was the reported decline of 20 feet in the 1,200-foot sand and a decline of 10 to 15 feet in the 1,500-foot sand over the last ten years.

The staff responded to the Louisiana Ground Water Association regarding the association concerns that this letter was being sent to the drillers. In addition, the staff reported that Senators

Hoyt and Representative Daniel had some thoughts on the matter of domestic wells and that the staff will investigate the need to get the domestic well information from the owners or just get the information from the DOTD.

Commissioner Bolourchi, DOTD, had several concerns regarding data collection requirements under Act 446, and staff actions for gathering this information.

Chairwoman Gautreaux stated that as a function of the staff, once the staff has an understanding of the issues and it is carrying out technical details that it is not something that would normally require Commission approval.

Commissioner Boudreaux, Office of Conservation, stated that originally the staff had a different approach to data collection, but had possibly been led to believe that the intent of the legislation was to get information on all wells.

Commissioner Cefalu, Police Jury Association, asked if there was some other legislation that requires the drillers to send in a form for every well. Commissioner Bolourchi stated that the DOTD has been collecting data since 1985. A short discussion on the well registration took place.

Commissioner Cefalu asked that if GPS mapping data was hard to get from the public is it not important to just get the information on the aquifer tapped into? Commissioner Givens disagreed stating that because you could have a concentration of wells in one place in an aquifer and that is something the Office of Conservation need to know.

Commissioner Cefalu asked if the Commission needed to request instrumentation so the Department (?) could get needed information. Mr. Killeen, Office of Conservation, stated that reason we do not want to address that now is because the information is not of good quality and would therefore conflict with and add confusion to the data collected by Commissioner Bolourchi's program. Mr. Killeen also stated that the staff is not getting good quality location data or aquifer data. A short discussion followed regarding GPS data collected by DOTD.

Ground Water Management Advisory Task Force member Herschel Bourque, representing the Louisiana Ground Water Association, stated that you can get the latitude and longitude of a well off the internet and can tell if a well is registered.

### **Ground Water Management Advisory Task Force Committee Reports**

Mr. Henry Graham, Industrial Committee, reported that the Industrial Committee sent a survey out in December asking for responses by the end of January and hope to report on the results by the next Task Force meeting. This survey is not intended to replace more accurate data annual usages that's already being collected, but it's to try to give us a better handle internally of what types of usages companies represented by the Industrial Committee are making of the ground water and the surface water that they have right now.

Ms. Linda Walker, Outreach Committee, stated that the Committee had completed a rough draft of a proposal of short-term plans and have the long-term plans completed in February. She went on to request that the press release that the Outreach Committee had worked on be released so that the public could be aware of the real work the Commission had been doing. The next Outreach Committee meeting will be February 6.

Mr. Charles Demas, Technical Committee, stated that that committee met with C.H. Fenstermaker on December 17, 2001 to give them all the available information from committee members including ongoing research.

### **Consultants Report**

Mr. Bruce Darling, LBG-Guyton, a sub-consultant to C.H. Fenstermaker and Associates, stated that they have been working on the web site and would like to have it running by the end of January. The web site will be tightly controlled with nothing being posted without DNR approval. The consultant also plans to meet with the groundwater modeler from URS, the consulting firm that developed the model for the Sparta Groundwater Conservation District. Information has also been collected on ground water models developed in Acadia Parish and southwest Louisiana and meeting have been held with experienced groundwater modelers.

The consultant has begun setting up GIS files. Over the next month production in terms of how the GIS will be structured for this project. Published data from the USGS from 1960 to 2000 (preliminary) regarding the water demand and population. The consultant is currently working on projections of population and municipal water demand on a sector-by-sector basis. A 20-year projection is the goal.

The consultant is also planning an educational document for the members of the Commission and Task Force identifying the concepts of water planning and a comparison of different state approaches.

Commissioner Cefalu asked if the groundwater is going to be segregated from the surface water. Mr. Darling said yes and went on to explain that he'll be using USGS data because it is the best around. The USGS data is presented in two categories, ground water and surface water usage. Data on treatment discharges is not something that is collected.

Commissioner Cefalu questioned if the water is treated then discharged are you not replenishing surface waters? The USGS data does not take into consideration discharges from the treatment facilities. Charlie Demas, USGS, said that the USGS records the amount of water used and not discharged because the same amount of water is not discharged or the quality may not as useful. Commissioner Cefalu stated that his concerns were that if we just look at usage then we would record a decline if the water were not shown going back into the system. Mr. Demas said the discharge information is collected on discharge permits.

Commissioner Namwamba, Southern University geologist, asked for more information regarding the GIS format. Mr. Darling said that he could not give specific details but could give the Commissioner the contact person information.

### **New Business**

Jim Marchand of the Governor's Office reported on the home rule charter versus the state's authority. Mr. Marchand went on to basically explain the three types of local government – pre-1974 home rule, post-1974 home rule, and non-home rule. One of the things reserves for the state to protect is natural resources. In addition, ACT 446 provides that local governments will have input into the decisions of the Ground Water Management Commission.

The next meeting was set for February 20, 2002 at 1:30 PM. The location will be announced at a date prior to the next meeting.